



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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SURVEYS MEASURE AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USE AND CONSERVATION ISSUES

NASHVILLE, September 2, 2005 - To gather reliable, objective information about pesticide usage and conservation practices, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office will conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) and the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) survey during the fall of 2005. These surveys will provide information on chemical applications, production practices, pest management, and conservation practices.

"USDA has an obligation to provide reliable data on pesticide use and other production practices and these surveys give us the information necessary to do that," said Debra Kenerson, State Director. Kenerson added, "Accurate and complete responses from producers are essential to the success of the surveys. We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses and data about individual operations are used only in conjunction with information from other producers."

The agricultural producers selected to participate in these surveys will make an important contribution to the overall welfare of the U.S. agricultural community. All information gathered will be merged and used by commodity analysts, producer organizations, and others to benefit Tennessee farmers. Survey participants have an opportunity to set the record straight about issues that affect them, such as use of fertilizers and pesticides. One of the most important findings to emerge from previous surveys is that growers generally apply pesticides at rates considerably below manufacturers' maximum recommended levels.

Tennessee farm operators selected to participate in this year's surveys are being notified by letter, and interviewers will visit them personally to collect their reports at their convenience. USDA will use the results of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey to publish information on agricultural chemical usage and analyze commodity production costs and returns in a series of reports in 2006. Annual progress reports based on the results of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project survey will be published by the National Resources Conservation Service beginning this year. The Agricultural Resource Management Survey and the Conservation Effects Assessment Project are just a couple of ways that USDA and producers work together to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistical information and services that help keep U.S. agricultural and rural communities among the most robust in the world.

To see evidence of how ARMS pays big dividends for producers and rural communities, watch **RFD-TV "LIVE"** hosted by Max Armstrong on Monday, September 12, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. (CST). The show will be broadcast on Dish Network - Channel 9409, DirecTV - Channel 379, Mediacom Cable, or NCTC Cable Systems (check your local listing). Join in the discussion or ask a question about ARMS by calling toll free at **1-866-547-9696**.

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